

F-8-104

Ca. 1790 - Ca. 1925

Johnsville Survey District

Johnsville, Maryland

Private

Johnsville is a good example of a linear road-related 19th century town. Three store buildings, two churches, a school, and several fine representatives of vernacular architectural styles of the second and third quarters of the 19th century convey a strong sense of the trade route which gave rise to the town.

F-8-104  
Johnsville Survey District  
Johnsville  
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont  
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery Counties,  
and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:  
Rural Agrarian Intensification 1680-1815 A.D.  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870 A.D.  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial)  
Transportation

Resource Type:  
Category: District

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use:  
Domestic/single dwelling/residence  
Commerce/Trade/department store/general store  
Education/school/schoolhouse  
Religion/Religious structure/church

Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. F-8-104

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Johnsville Survey District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 10642-11106 Green Valley Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Johnsville ☐ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Multiple property owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio

city, town Frederick state MD. 21701

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. F-8-104

**Condition**

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move

\_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 48

(Typed on separate sheet)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. F-8-104

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/
			<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** Ca. 1790-1925 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

(Typed on separate sheet)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-8-104

Bond, Isaac, Map of Frederick County, 1858

Johnsville District, Frederick County, Maryland, Booklet compiled by Marie Burns, Ellen Wyatt, Sundra Funkhouser, 1976.

Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Western Maryland, Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1882.

Spaur, Michael L. "What's In a Name", Frederick News-Post, Feb. 27, 1980.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Union Bridge, MD.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Frederick County Planning &amp; Zoning Dept. date June, 1991

street &amp; number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958

city or town Frederick state MD 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## 7.1 Description

Johnsville is a village of dwellings, small commercial buildings, and a church founded in the last quarter of the 18th century along a road linking southern Pennsylvania to the Liberty Road, a major trade route between Baltimore and western Maryland. The town is located about 4 miles north of Libertytown in northeast Frederick County, Maryland. Taverns, blacksmiths, wheelwrights, general stores, churches, and schools were built along the route, now Green Valley Road in the linear arrangement of turnpike towns. Much of the village remains intact in plan and former stores, an operating general store, two church buildings, one now a dwelling, and a schoolhouse which also is currently a residence are still identifiable in the village.

The survey district contains approximately 48 major contributing structures ranging in date from about 1800 to the 1920's. Mostly residential today, the village has at least two early combined residential/commercial buildings which are now completely residential. An 1876 store and residence combination still functions as a unit. One of the two churches and the remaining schoolhouse are also converted to dwelling use. The siting of the buildings is generally close to Green Valley Road, with short driveways to properties off the road and to farms not included in the survey district. Never regularly spaced, the houses have side yards and large lots; in some cases, these are the result of demolitions. The 1873 Titus Atlas shows a fairly closely built pattern, clustered around the junctions of the three subsidiary roads, Renner Road, Molasses Road, and Keymar Road.

Architecturally, the district is vernacular but with clear evidence of skilled stone-masonry, brickmasonry, and carpentry. Two buildings have rusticated wood siding. Eight are brick, usually laid in 5, 6, or 7 course American bond with wood lintels. One major building is stone. Most dwellings have 3 or 5 bays with center entrances and gable roofs with standing seam tin, and one-story porches. Details are confined to moldings at the cornices, around doorways and windows. The early 20th century is represented by a four square dwelling, three bungalows, and a concrete block and frame auto garage.

Following are brief descriptions of the major resources:

Johnsville Methodist Church, 11106 Green Valley Road: Built 1842, the brick church has a hall plan with a three bay facade, round-arched stained glass windows, and a center entrance. The side elevations have 4 bays of rectangular stained glass windows. The steeple is a modern addition. The cemetery associated with the church has graves dating from the 1830's.

10951 Green Valley Road: A two-section, stone and brick dwelling built ca. 1810-1840. A shed porch shelters the double entry. The stone section has three bays and the brick has two bays. A standing seam tin roof covers both sections. Several additions on the side and rear elevations.

Wolf House, 10931 Green Valley Road: A two-story, five bay brick house built about 1840, with a sidelighted center entry and a palladian-influenced, three-part window in the second story. A bracketed porch and evidence of

## 7.2 Description (Continued)

removed dentil molding at the cornice. A finely detailed cast iron fence along the street.

Hartsock Store and Post Office, 10929 Green Valley Road: A two story brick dwelling with a three bay elevation and simple window hoods over the 6/6 windows. Once served as a general store and post office.

Grove's Store, 10919 Green Valley Road: Built about 1875, this is a combined general store/residence with a former public hall on the second floor. Rusticated wood siding, one-story porch, three entrances for the store, second floor apartments, and residence. Still functioning as a general store after several years' lapse.

Dr. Sidwell Residence/I00F Hall, 10918 Green Valley Road: A two-story frame building which may have been a store, built prior to 1850; in 1870's used as dwelling and office of Dr. Reuben Sidwell and Oddfellows Hall on second floor. Clapboard siding with possible partial log structure. One story porch and multiple entries.

Former Methodist Episcopal Church, 10950 Green Valley Road: Built 1851, it is now a dwelling. Hall plan church with bell tower and Gothic arched side elevation windows. Clapboard siding and enclosed belfry. Cemetery southeast of building still has headstones.

10906 Green Valley Road: Two story frame dwelling with rusticated wood siding and pedimented entry porch. Bracketed cornice and standing seam tin roof. Three bays with center entrance. Built about 1865-70.

10818 Green Valley Road: A two-section brick building, now a multiple dwelling, that was built as a store or tavern. Irregularly placed windows and three doorways indicate the sections were built at different periods, possibly 1820-1840. Ghost of a shed porch is visible over the central portion.

10808 Green Valley Road, Johnsville Public School No. 22: Built in 1903, the one story brick schoolhouse is now a dwelling. Projecting central bay with two flanking wings. Replaced door and shed porch. Standing seam roof.



## 8.1 Significance

Johnsville is a good example of a linear, road-related town of the 19th century. Laid out according to need rather than a town plan, the commercial functions clustered at or near the road intersections and dwellings, churches, and schools developed between the trade centers. Two Methodist churches exemplify the Episcopal and Protestant branches of the sect. An early 20th century schoolhouse, although converted to a dwelling, is a good representative of the expanded small school building, an improvement on the 19th century one-room type. Three store buildings exemplify the road travel over the 19th and early 20th centuries which stimulated the growth of the town. Several of the buildings have well-preserved rusticated wood siding and decorative details.

Johnsville was thought to have been named because many of its early settlers were named John, according to Scharf's History of Western Maryland. The town's relation to the road between southern Pennsylvania, Union Bridge, and the Liberty Road at Libertytown gave rise to travel services such as stores, taverns, blacksmiths, and other trades. As in Unionville, the surrounding farms helped support the town's expansion. With the advent of the automobile Johnsville and Unionville declined in importance and commercial activity disappeared, to be replaced by residential uses. Currently a store still operates in Johnsville, continuing a historical function.

Johnsville Survey District  
Frederick County

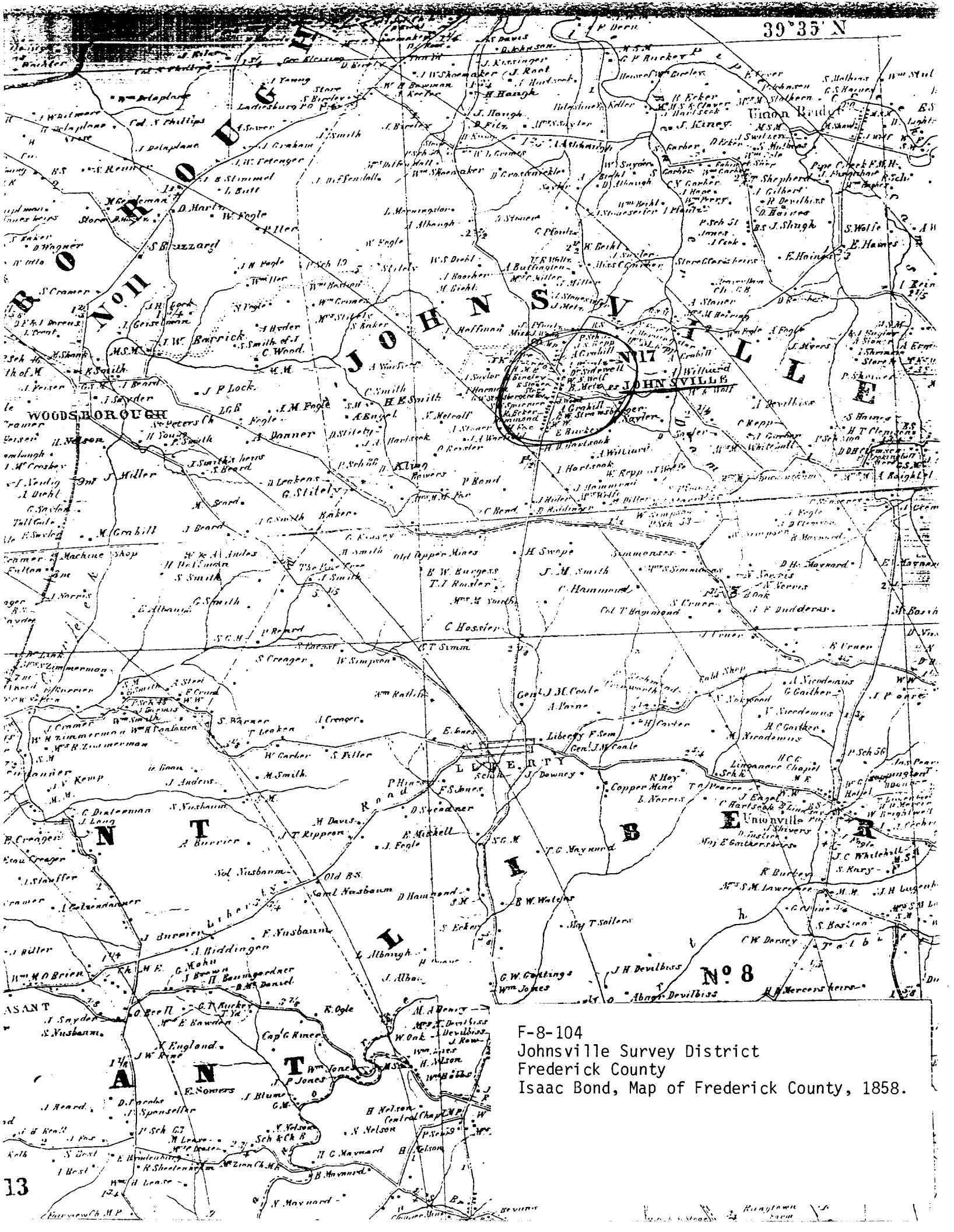
Survey No. F-8-104

9.1 Bibliography (Continued)

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.

Williams, T.J.C., History of Frederick County, 1910 Regional Publishing Co.,  
Baltimore (reprint) 1979



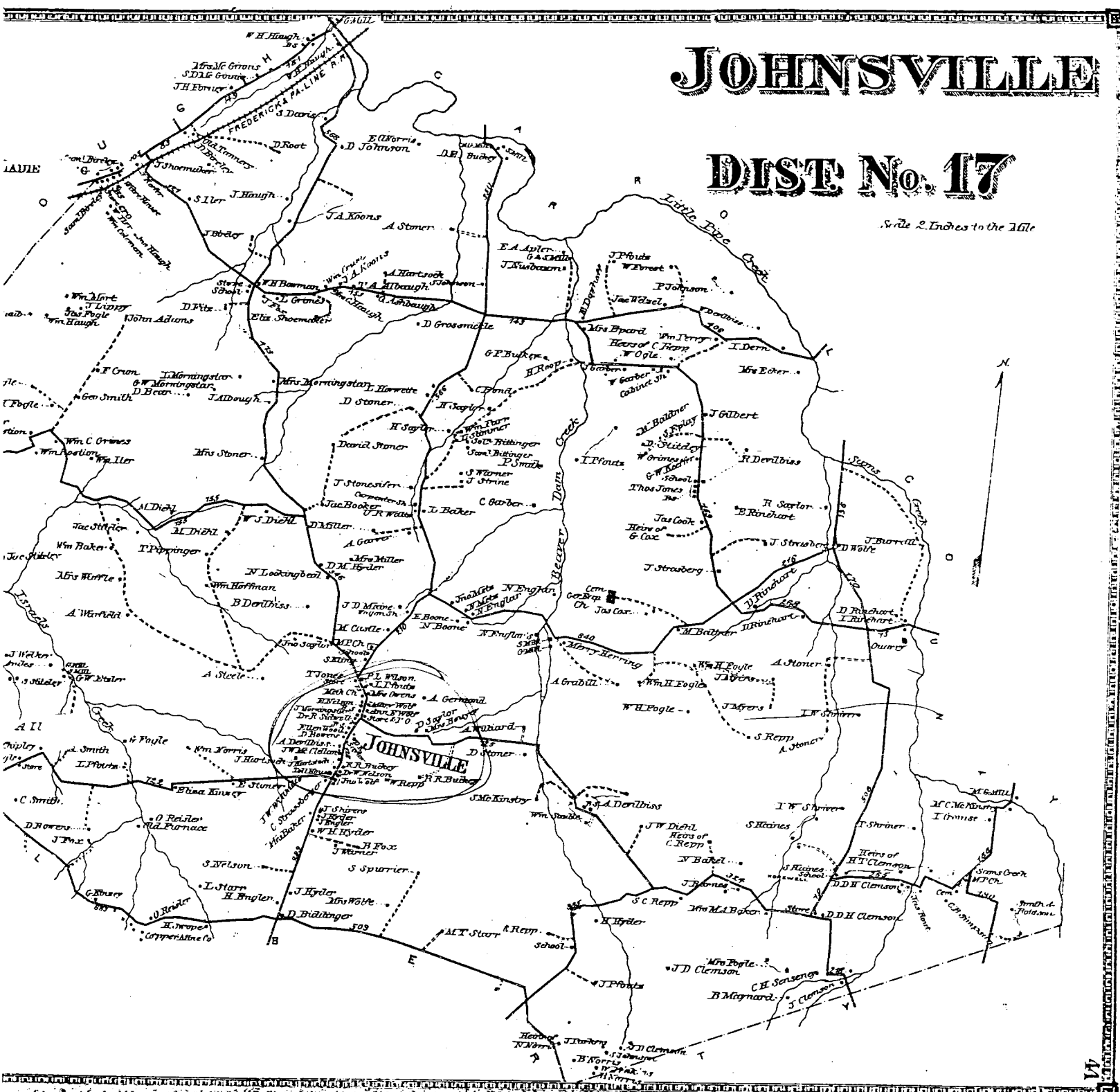


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Johnsville Survey District  
Frederick County  
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County, 1858.

# JOHNSVILLE

# DIST No. 17

Write 2 Inches to the Mile



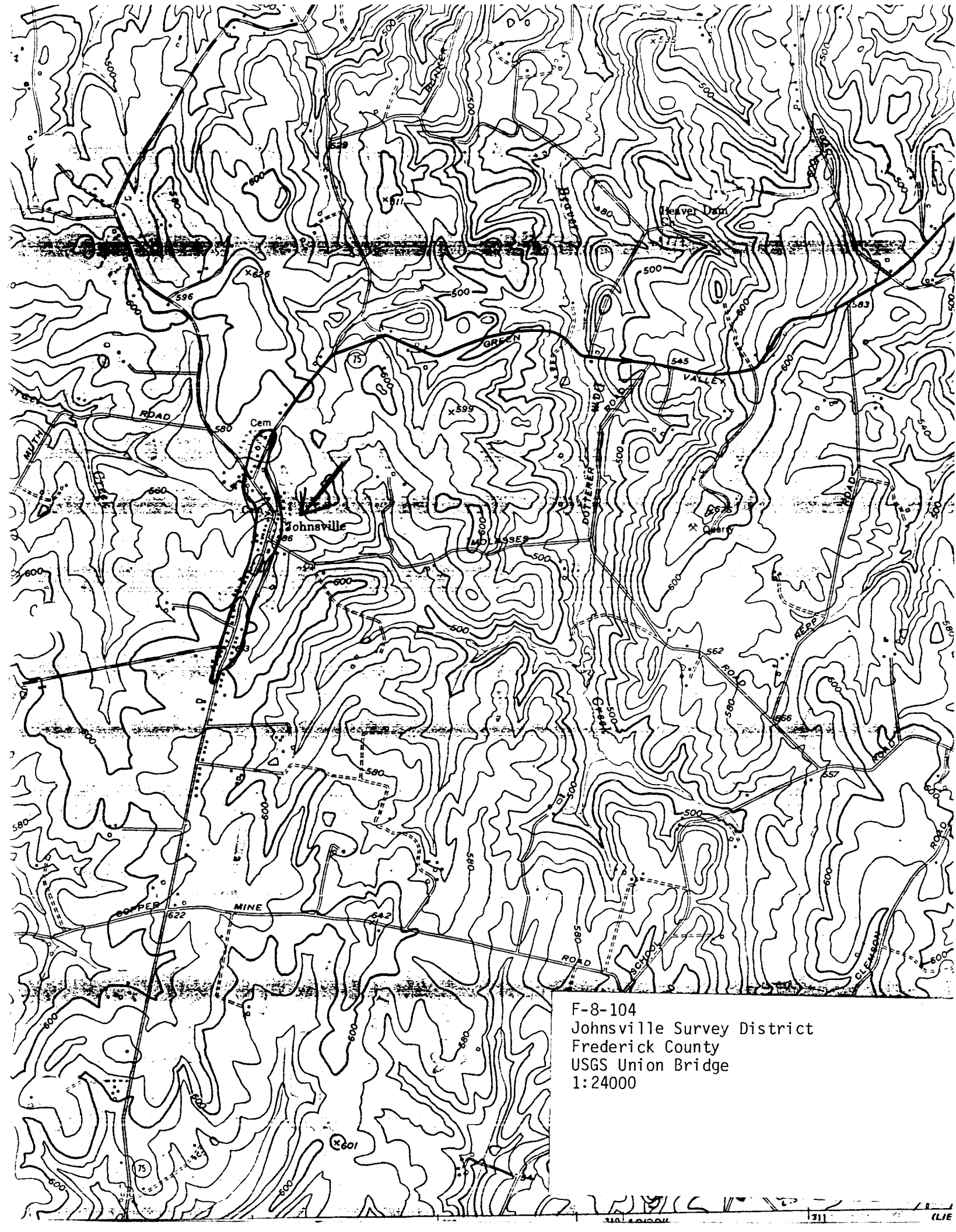
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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873.





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Johnsville Survey District  
Frederick County  
USGS Union Bridge  
1:24000





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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPo

Streetscape view north on Green Valley Road  
at Molasses Road

1/10



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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

Streetscape view south on Green Valley Road  
from vicinity of Molasses Road

2/10



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Photo: Janet Davrs

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Grove's Store, northwest corner view

3/10



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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

10931 Green Valley Road, Wolf House, north-  
west corner view

4/10





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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. no.: Md. SHPO

10950 Green Valley Road, former Methodist  
Episcopal Church, northeast corner view

5/10



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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md SHPO

10951 Green Valley Road, Southwest elevation  
6/10



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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

Methodist Protestant Church, 11106 Green  
Valley Road, view from north

7/10



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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

10926 Green Valley Road, Southeast corner  
view

8/10





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Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

10818 Green Valley Road, east elevation

9/10



F-8-104

Johnsville Survey District

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

April 1991

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO

10808 Green Valley Road, former School #22  
East elevation

10/10